

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An apparatus for collecting pet excrement comprising:
 - a tube having a longitudinal axis, with said tube having a distal end and a proximal end,
 - a first band having two ends with one end attached to the distal end of the tube,
 - a second band having two ends with one end attached to the distal end of the tube,
 - an outer loop slider coaxial with the longitudinal axis of the tube and slidingly mounted on the tube near the distal end and attached to the other end of the first band,
 - an inner loop slider coaxial with the longitudinal axis of the tube and slidingly mounted on the tube near the distal end and attached to the other end of the second band,
 - a loop guide attached to the distal end of the tube to guide the first and second bands,
 - a receptacle attachment attached to the distal end of the tube, and
 - a receptacle supported by the receptacle attachment and engaged between the said first and second bands.
2. The apparatus of Claim 1 including an end cap attached to the distal end of the tube and

coaxial with the longitudinal axis of the tube to guide the first and second bands, said end cap having at least one end cap slot.

JDc
7-16-97 3. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the first band has a plurality of prongs and the ^{second}~~first~~ band has a plurality of slots corresponding to the prongs in the first band.

4. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the second band has a plurality of prongs and the first band has a plurality of slots corresponding to the prongs in the second band.

0879154-013097
JDc
7-16-97 5. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the receptacle attachment ~~device~~ is selected from a group comprising a hook, clamp/clip, and band.

6. The apparatus of Claim 1 including a positioning support removably attached to the tube near the distal end.

7. The apparatus of Claim 6 including a wheel assembly removably attached to the positioning support, with the wheel assembly including a wheel support and a wheel.

8. The apparatus of Claim 7 wherein the wheel is a caster wheel.

9. A method for collecting pet excrement comprising:

carrying an apparatus for collecting pet excrement,

extending from the apparatus a first band by way of an outer loop slider slidingly along the longitudinal axis of the tube of the apparatus to a first position,

extending from the apparatus a second band by way of an inner loop slider slidingly along the longitudinal axis of the tube of the apparatus to a second position,

attaching one part of a receptacle to a receptacle attachment device fixed to the distal end of a tube of the apparatus and engaging another part of the receptacle between the first band and the second band to hold the receptacle in an open position,

following a pet to point where the pet excretes excrement,

positioning the apparatus, with the open, attached receptacle beneath the anal opening of the pet until the pet has completed depositing its excrement,

retracting the outer and inner ^{sliders} ~~slider~~ to close the receptacle,

securing the closure of the receptacle , and

depositing the closed, excrement containing receptacle in a sanitation depository.

10. The method of Claim ⁹ ~~8~~ including the step of attaching a positioning support to the tube near the distal end of the tube.

11. The method of Claim 9 including the step of attaching a wheel assembly to the positioning support.